

## **Katherine Station Road Train Derailment Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky Desk Statement**

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On October 29, 2012, at approximately 6 a.m. EDT, a Paducah & Louisville (P&L) Railway train carrying hazardous material (hazmat) heading north along tracks owned and operated by P&L Railway derailed 13 cars near the intersection of Dixie Highway and Katherine Station Road in southwestern Jefferson County and near the Salt and Ohio Rivers.

Nine of the derailed railcars were carrying hazardous materials including sodium hydroxide, hydrogen fluoride, styrene monomer and 1,3-butadiene. The butadiene car and the styrene tank car were identified as breached. Reportedly, no other hazardous materials were released. P&L Railway reported that 162,000 pounds of butadiene was lost in the derailment. An unknown amount of styrene was released from a single tank car.

On October 31, three workers were injured during an explosion while attempting to uncouple a railcar containing 1,3-butadiene. The three workers were hospitalized as a result of the fire. As of November 1, one of the victims has been released from the hospital. One victim remains in critical condition, and the other victim is in stable condition.

Air releases continue at the damaged rail cars, but perimeter air monitoring is ongoing. Intact rail cars will be off loaded and removed once conditions are deemed safe to proceed. A mitigation plan for the butadiene rail car is being developed.

### **Talking Points:**

- The P&L Railway train derailed 13 cars. Nine of these cars were carrying hazardous materials including sodium hydroxide, hydrogen fluoride, styrene monomer and 1,3-butadiene. Two cars were breached (The butadiene car and the styrene tank car).
- Both butadiene and styrene are flammable and toxic volatile organic compounds.
- P&L Railway reported that 162,000 pounds of butadiene was lost in the derailment. An unknown amount of styrene was released from a single tank car.
- CSX contracted a technical consultant, the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH) to perform air monitoring and their crews were on-scene and deployed equipment by October 29 2012. The Louisville Metro Health Department and the KDEP ERT members remain on-scene to continue their air monitoring operations.
- The Fire Department is on the scene and the car's remaining residual contents will be allowed to burn off.
- At the EPA OSC's request, additional regional support to assist in 24 hour operations has been deployed including four additional OSCs, two Environmental Response Team (ERT) members and Superfund Technical Assistance Response Team (START) resources to provide incident command, planning and air monitoring support. Current operational plans are to proceed at an appropriate pace to separate and reposition cars over the weekend with off loading anticipated to commence on Monday.
- The five mile shelter in place has been lifted. A 1.2 mile evacuation remains in place. This evacuation area covers parts of three counties in Kentucky and one county in Indiana as well as including a section of the Ohio River. The river closure is being managed by the U.S. Coast Guard.